

in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings, like reference numerals refer to like elements, and the thicknesses of layers and regions may be exaggerated for clarity. In this regard, the present exemplary embodiments may have different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the descriptions set forth herein. Accordingly, the exemplary embodiments are merely described below, by referring to the figures, to explain aspects. In the description below, when it is described that a certain layer is provided “on”, “on an upper part of”, or “above” a substrate or another layer, the certain layer may be in direct contact with and above the substrate or another layer, or a third layer may be interposed therebetween. As used herein, expressions such as “at least one of,” when preceding a list of elements, modify the entire list of elements and do not modify the individual elements of the list.

[0047] FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an image acquisition apparatus according to an exemplary embodiment. FIG. 2 illustrates an optical configuration applied to the image acquisition apparatus of FIG. 1, according to an exemplary embodiment.

[0048] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the image acquisition apparatus may include an optical path modulation optical element 10, an image sensor 150, and a signal processor 1300. The optical path modulation optical element 10 may be turned on or off based on a voltage applied from a driver 1200. The image sensor 150 may include a color filter 30 and a photoelectric conversion cell array 50. The driver 1200 may electrically drive the optical path modulation optical element 10 to change a position of an image on the color filter 30 in a time division manner. The image sensor 150, the driver 1200, and the signal processor 1300 may be controlled by a controller 1100.

[0049] Referring to FIG. 2, the image acquisition apparatus may further include a main lens 70 configured to form an image of a subject. Herein, the color filter 30, the photoelectric conversion cell array 50, and the optical path modulation optical element 10 may form the image sensor 150. In addition, the driver 1200 and the signal processor 1300 may also be included in the image sensor 150. That is, the image sensor 150 may include the remaining components except for lens elements such as the main lens 70. Accordingly, components of the image sensor 150 are not limited to the color filter 30 and the photoelectric conversion cell array 50 and may include some components of the image acquisition apparatus. FIGS. 1 and 2 show a case where the image sensor 150 includes the color filter 30 and the photoelectric conversion cell array 50.

[0050] According to the image acquisition apparatus according to the present exemplary embodiment, the optical path modulation optical element 10 may be configured to be capable of electrically controlling an optical path such that an optical axis of an image output from the main lens 70 is moved or returned to a certain position, e.g., one pixel, on the color filter 30 according to an electrical signal. The optical path modulation optical element 10 may be driven by the driver 1200 so as to change a position of an image on the color filter 30 in a time division manner.

[0051] The optical path modulation optical element 10 may be configured such that an incident surface 10a and an exit surface 10b are parallel to each other. For example, an electrowetting prism having a quick response speed may be applied to the optical path modulation optical element 10. In

the image acquisition apparatus according to the present exemplary embodiment, the electrowetting prism may be configured such that incident and exit surfaces are parallel to each other and an inclination angle of an interface between first and second fluids having different refractive indices is controlled by an applied voltage. In this case, the electrowetting prism may be configured such that an incident position of an image on the color filter 30 is changed in at least one of, for example, horizontal and vertical directions by adjusting the inclination angle of the interface between the first and second fluids. By doing this, an incident position of an image may be shifted or returned in at least one of the horizontal and vertical directions in pixel units by electrically controlling the electrowetting prism.

[0052] The optical path modulation optical element 10 may include, for example, first and second electrowetting prisms 11 and 13, each provided with a first fluid 11a or 13b and a second fluid 11b or 13a, as shown in FIG. 2. The first and second electrowetting prisms 11 and 13 may be arranged along a traveling direction of light such that the first fluids 11a and 13b or the second fluids 11b and 13a having a same refractive index are close to each other. FIG. 2 shows a case where the first and second electrowetting prisms 11 and 13 are arranged such that the second fluids 11b and 13a of the first and second electrowetting prisms 11 and 13 are close to each other. In this case, when an interface between the first fluid 11a and the second fluid 11b of the first electrowetting prism 11 is a first interface 12, and an interface between the first fluid 13b and the second fluid 13a of the second electrowetting prism 13 is a second interface 14, the first interface 12 and the second interface 14 may be parallel to each other.

[0053] As described above, when the optical path modulation optical element 10 includes the first and second electrowetting prisms 11 and 13, light incident to the optical path modulation optical element 10 and light output from the optical path modulation optical element 10 may be parallel to each other. In this case, the incident surface 10a of the optical path modulation optical element 10 corresponds to an incident surface of the first electrowetting prism 11, and the exit surface 10b of the optical path modulation optical element 10 corresponds to an exit surface of the second electrowetting prism 13.

[0054] The color filter 30 may have an arrangement of a plurality of types of filter elements 30R, 30G, and 30B. For example, in the color filter 30, an R filter element 30R, a G filter element 30G, and a B filter element 30B may be arranged to form a two-dimensional (2D) array in pixel units, wherein each of the R, G, and B filter elements 30R, 30G, and 30B corresponds to each color pixel in the image sensor 150. For example, the color filter 30 may have a 2D arrangement of a color filter element basic unit including two G filter elements 30G, one B filter element 30B, and one R filter element 30R arranged in a Bayer pattern. Additionally, the color filter 30 may have arrangements in which a plurality of types of color filter elements are variously arranged. For example, the color filter 30 may have a 2D arrangement of a color filter element basic unit including R, G, B, and W filter elements. Herein, the W filter element indicates white color and may correspond to a transparent pixel with no filter element. As another example, the color filter 30 may have a 2D arrangement of a color filter element basic unit including cyan (C), magenta (M), yellow (Y), and black (K) filter elements. As described above, the color filter